

the post-process metal product;] performing a high-density coating process to coat the workpiece substrate with a coating material [to build-up a thickness of coating material effective to obtain desired finished dimensions after performing a sintering heat treatment process and a hot isostatic pressing treatment;] performing [the] a sintering heat treatment on the coated workpiece substrate to [densify] remove entrapped gas from the coating material to avoid said entrapped gas from resulting in a bubbled surface texture of the coated workpeice after a hot isostatic pressing treatment; and then performing the hot isostatic pressing treatment to obtain [the] a post-process metal product having [the desired post-process dimensions] a substantially smooth surface texture and having a durable diffusion bonding between the coating material and the workpiece substrate.

2) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having superior surface characteristics according to claim 1; wherein the metal alloy workpiece substrate comprises a nickel or cobalt-base superalloy; and the step of performing the high-density coating process comprises performing a high-density coating process such as a hyper velocity oxy-fuel thermal spray process or a detonation gun process to apply a high-density coating having the same nickel or cobalt-base superalloy composition as the metal alloy workpiece substrate.

3) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having superior surface characteristics according to claim 2; wherein the step of performing the sintering heat treatment comprises sintering at a temperature at or about 1825 to 2150 degrees F for about 1/2 to 2 hours.

4) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having superior surface characteristics according to claim 2; wherein the step of performing the hot isostatic

pressing treatment comprises hot isostatic pressing at a temperature of about 2200F in about 15 KSI argon for about 4 hours.

5) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having superior surface characteristics according to claim 1; wherein the step of hot isostatic pressing treatment comprises the step of heating the coated workpiece substrate to a temperature that is substantially 80% of the melting point of the metal alloy; and pressurizing the coated workpiece substrate to a pressure substantially between 20 and 50 percent of the yield strength of the metal alloy in an inert gas atmosphere.

6) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having superior surface characteristics according to claim 1; wherein the coating material built-up during the high-density coating process is comprised of the same metal alloy as the workpiece substrate.

7) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having superior surface characteristics according to claim 6; wherein the step of performing the sintering heat treatment comprises sintering at a temperature at or about 1825 to 2150 degrees F for about 1/2 to 2 hours.

8) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having superior surface characteristics according to claim 7; wherein the step of performing the hot isostatic pressing treatment comprises hot isostatic pressing at a temperature of about 2200F in about 15 KSI argon for about 4 hours.

9) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having superior surface characteristics, comprising the steps of: selecting attributes of a final workpiece product; determining an appropriate substrate composition depending on the selected attributes; forming a workpiece substrate to near-finished dimensions; determining an appropriate coating material composition depending on the selected attributes; preparing the workpiece substrate for a high-density coating process; performing the high-density coating process to coat the workpiece substrate with the coating material to a thickness effective to obtain desired finished dimensions after performing a sintering heat treatment and a hot isostatic pressing treatment; performing the sintering heat treatment on the coated workpiece substrate to remove entrapped gas from the coating material to avoid said entrapped gas from resulting in a bubbled surface texture of the coated workpiece after the hot isostatic pressing treatment; determining appropriate hot isostatic pressing treatment parameters; and performing the hot isostatic pressing treatment on the coated workpiece substrate to obtain a metal product having the desired finished dimensions, a substantially smooth surface texture and diffusion bonding between the coating material and the workpiece substrate.

10) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having superior surface characteristics according to claim 9; wherein the step of performing the high-density coating process comprises performing a hyper velocity oxy-fuel thermal spray process.

11) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having superior surface characteristics according to claim 10; wherein the step of hot isostatic pressing treating comprises the step of heating the engine part to a temperature that is substantially 80% of the melting point of the metal alloy; and pressurizing the engine part to a pressure

substantially between 20 and 50 percent of the yield strength of the metal alloy in an inert gas atmosphere.

12) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having superior surface characteristics according to claim 11; wherein the step of performing the hot isostatic pressing treatment comprises hot isostatic pressing at a temperature of about 2200F in about 15 KSI argon for about 4 hours.

14) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having superior surface characteristics according to claim [13]9; wherein the step of performing the sintering heat treatment comprises sintering at a temperature at or about 1825 to 2150 degrees F for about 1/2 to 2 hours.

15) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having superior surface characteristics according to claim 9; wherein the workpiece substrate comprises a nickel or cobalt-base superalloy; and the step of performing the high-density coating process comprises performing a high-density coating process such as a hyper velocity oxy-fuel thermal spray process or a detonation gun process to apply a high-density coating having the same nickel or cobalt-base superalloy composition as the workpiece substrate.

16) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having superior surface characteristics according to claim 9; wherein the coating material built-up during the high-density coating process is comprised of a same metal alloy as the workpiece substrate.

17) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having a cutting edge having a wear resistant surface, comprising the steps of: [providing] forming a workpiece substrate having a cutting edge portion [to near-finished dimensions]; performing a high-density coating process to coat at least the cutting edge portion of the workpiece substrate with a wear resistant coating material [to a thickness effective to obtain desired finished dimensions after performing a hot isostatic pressing treatment]; and performing a hot isostatic pressing treatment on the coated workpiece substrate to obtain a metal product having [the desired finished dimensions and] a wear resistant surface comprised of the coating material, the wear resistant surface being formed at the cutting edge portion and having a diffusion bonding between the coating material and the workpiece substrate.

18) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having a cutting edge according to claim 17; wherein the step of performing the high-density coating process comprises performing a hyper velocity oxy-fuel thermal spray process.

19) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having a cutting edge according to claim 18; wherein the step of hot isostatic pressing treating comprises the step of heating the [engine part] coated cutting tool substrate to a temperature that is substantially 80% of the melting point of the [metal alloy] coating material; and pressurizing the [engine part] coated cutting tool substrate to a pressure substantially between 20 and 50 percent of the yield strength of the [metal alloy] coating material in an inert gas atmosphere.

20) (Amended) A method of forming a metal product having a cutting edge according to claim 19; further comprising the step of performing a sintering heat treatment on the coated workpiece substrate to [densify] remove entrapped gas in the coating material

before performing the hot isostatic pressing treatment so that the formed metal product has a relatively smooth surface texture.

Kindly add the new claims 21 – 26:

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21) A method of forming a metal product having a cutting edge according to claim 17; wherein the workpiece substrate comprises a high speed steel substrate composition.

22) A method of forming a metal product having a cutting edge according to claim 17; wherein the coating material comprises a hard and durable metal such as Cobalt, Carbide and TiN.

23) A method of forming a metal product having a cutting edge according to claim 17; wherein the workpeice substrate comprises a nickel or cobalt-base superalloy; and the step of performing the high-density coating process comprises performing a high-density coating process such as a hyper velocity oxy-fuel thermal spray process or a detonation gun process to apply the coating material as a high-density coating.

24) A method of forming a metal product having a cutting edge according to claim 17; wherein the metal product formed comprises a cutting tool.

25) A method of forming a metal product having a cutting edge according to claim 24, wherein the cutting tool comprises one of a drill bit, end mill, lathe tool bit, saw blade, planer knife, and cutting tool insert.

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